

REMARKS

Upon entry of the present amendment the claims under consideration are 1-2, 4-5, 8-10, and 18-22. Claims 11-17 were restricted and withdrawn by the Examiner. Claims 3, 6-7 and 23 are cancelled by the present amendment.

Independent Claims 1 and 18 have been amended hereby to make clear the structure of the brace member of the present invention. Claim 21, formerly independent, has been made dependent to further limit Claim 18. Generally, these claims are now limited to the structure of the brace (or second) member wherein the brace member is astride, i.e., laying on top with a leg on either side, of the main terminal. Support in the original specification can be found at least in the drawings as clearly seen in Fig. 5.

Claims 2, 4-5, 9, 10, and 18-22 have also been amended to more clearly state the invention in structural terms and/or improve their antecedent basis.

The Detailed Action of April 24, 2006 will now be addressed with reference to any subject headings or section numbers contained therein.

Drawings

The drawings stand objected to for not showing the conductive cable as specified in the previous claims. As the conductive cable is a member which the present invention attaches to and is not part of the inventive structure itself, the cable was removed as a limitation of the claims. Therefore, the present objection has been obviated.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §112

Claim 1 stands rejected under §112, second paragraph. The complained of lack of antecedent basis and incomplete sentence structure have been cured by the present amendment.

Claims 3-5 stand rejected under §112, second paragraph. Claim 3 has been cancelled hereby. Claims 4 and 5 have been amended to obviate the rejection.

Claims 8-10, 18, 21 and 23 stand rejected under §112, second paragraph as lacking in clarity. Applicants believe any previous lack of clarity has been cured by the present amendment.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §103

All Claims (1-23) stand rejected at page 4 of the Detailed Action as obvious over Felden et al., US 6,556,111 (hereinafter “Felden”) in view of Klein et al. US 3,534,195, (hereinafter “Klein”). Applicants respectfully traverse in view of the amendments and remarks herein.

Generally, per the above discussion, the present Independent claims 1 and 18 have been amended to clearly specify that the brace member lies astride the main terminal member. Astride means “on or above with one leg on each side of” as set forth in *Webster’s Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary*, Merriam Webster, 1989, page 111, attached hereto as Appendix A. Neither of the cited references shows or suggests such a structural arrangement.

Applicants further suggest that the cited references are not properly combinable to teach the present invention. In Klein, the supposed ‘brace’ (tabs 110) is merely taught as having a positioning function and not a torque resistance function, see col. 4, line 19. This is especially evident because the terminal of Klein is connected only to a conducting braid 114 and is unconcerned with problems of torque on the bimetal as in the present invention. Likewise Felden gives no hint of torque problems being a concern in its construction. Thus, the suggestion for the combination does not come from the references themselves. Therefore they are not a proper combination to make a *prima facie* case.

Claims 7 and 23 stand rejected per page 7 of the Detailed Action. These claims have been cancelled hereby. Accordingly, the rejection has been obviated.

Conclusion

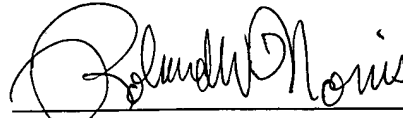
For all the foregoing reasons it is respectfully submitted that all claims under consideration have been placed in condition for allowance. A notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Applicants have intended to be fully responsive herein to the Office Action. If any issues remain the Examiner is invited to call Applicants’ undersigned attorney at the listed number.

Applicants respectfully request a one month extension of time for replying to the Office Action of April 24, 2006. A separate Petition for One Month Extension of Time is enclosed to facilitate payment of petition fees.

Favorable consideration is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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